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fore, none of its cardinal principles has been violated, its limitations have never been permitted long to strangle and stifle progress. The Federal Government has implied powers amply justifying a Federal child-labor law, and the authority for such an enactment need not be looked for only under the authorization for the regulation of interstate commerce.

PITTSBURGH POLITICAL SITUATION FULL OF THE GRIMMEST OF HUMOR

Substantial and Sober Citizens Refuse to Take Seriously the Impending Battle for Control by Philadelphia Contractors

BY WHAT RIGHT? I WITS'-BURGH

This is the first of a series of five articles by a staff representative of the Evening Ledger who has made a serious study of political conditions in Pittsburgh, which are almost without precedent in the history of the Commonwealth.

Nothing especially humorous is being said or done just now in Philadelphia. People are going about their businesses stolidly and even refuse the tribute of a sour smile to any new discussion of the transit situation, for example.

To find any real activity in the joke-manufacturing line today Philadelphians must travel in a westerly direction for some 200 miles and shake hands with the boys out in Pittsburgh. There, in the city of coke and steel (with the accent, according to some Pittsburgh humorists, on steel), the jokesmiths are working night and day on war orders for popular consumption.

I have spent several days in Pittsburgh recently and held conversations with a number of its citizens. Some of their remarks are set down herewith. I leave it to the critics in Philadelphia to judge whether they were expressed in deadly seriousness or in a spirit of delightful playfulness. The pits of Wits'-Burgh are too subtle for me.

Pittsburgh began its campaign for the election of a new Mayor on Monday of last week. Don't laugh; we haven't come to the point yet. As far as my own individual feelings are concerned, I came away from Pittsburgh in the deepest of glooms. I had failed to have a long, long talk with T. H. Given, a gentleman who was touted to me as being the cheeriest little humorist in all Pittsburgh.

A Good Penrose Democrat Mr. Given owns a bank and two newspapers, so I was naturally disappointed when I failed to attain my hope for an hour or two of conversation with a man of whom many engaging stories are told. Mr. Given's reputation for wit was achieved, so the story goes, and was made imperishable as a block of granite when he called himself a Democrat. I thought the delicious humor of the anecdote lay in the fact that the Democrats in Pittsburgh were like the snakes in Ireland.

But I was told that I had missed the point, as usual. And this is not the only bit of humor ascribed to him. I was told that some one recently asked Mr. Given to account for the fact that no Democrat had been in the running for Mayor since the days when the late James W. Guthrie occupied the post. This is the answer ascribed to Mr. Given:

"We have a nonpartisan primary here; and one of the defects of that system is that it eliminates as candidates all but representatives of the controlling party." Besides his reputation as a humorist, Mr. Given is described as being a bulldog fighter-in-business. His newspapers are, of course, fighting tooth and nail in the interests of the Democratic party? No! You got that wrong. They happen to be supporting Senator Penrose's preference for the majority.

According to Mr. Given, as quoted, only candidates of the "controlling party" get nominated at Pittsburgh's primaries. There are three Republicans in the majority race, and a Democrat who is a fighter by instinct simply can't refrain from supporting at least one of them. So Mr. Given supports the Penrose candidate. A finer example of the subtle Pittsburgh humor current in these days can scarcely be imagined.

Loyal to Capitalists Town gossips are uncontrollable. They whispered to me that the public utilities expert who is one of the Republican contestants for the mayoralty had intimated in his platform that he intended to force upon the banking interests which own the Pittsburgh street railways certain things which would benefit the persons who ride in street cars and which would, presumably, cut down the revenues of the persons who own the street cars. The town gossips said that the Given bank, dauntlessly standing side by side with the Mellon banking interests, was prepared to fight this threat against decent capitalists to the last trench in the pavements of Pittsburgh.

But the joke on the town gossips is that Mr. Given's newspapers haven't once given this explanation for their support of the Penrose candidate. And the only consolation the town gossips find is to say that Mr. Given, from the calm heights occupied by a wealthy Democratic banker, sneers behind his warm, impulsive palm at all three of the candidates. This is manifestly unfair on the part of the town gossips, however. The thing which is plainly to be read in Mr. Given's newspapers by any one of Pittsburgh's million street car riders is that Mr. Given is supporting the candidate of that sterling Democrat, Senator Boies Penrose!

One statement in which there is no trace of humor is attributed to Mr. Given. It is said that he was asked if he did not consider it a good idea to form a committee of substantial business men, say one hundred in number, to stand as sponsors before the public for the good behavior of the Penrose candidate should he become Mayor. Mr. Given is said to have replied in words which left no doubt as to their exact meaning that if he approved the formation of such a committee he would propose it in his own newspapers, and that if he did not approve it he would not propose it in his own newspapers. What could be plainer?

"Too Busy Making Money" These are "ben mots" too often retold. To get one from which the gloss had not been rubbed, I called upon one of the heads of one of the greatest steel concerns in Pittsburgh. He was too canny a humorist to allow the use of his name, but his persiflage was genuine, even though it must remain anonymous.

"The administration of Pittsburgh under Mayor Armstrong, just ending his term, is one of the most disgraceful in Pittsburgh's history," said he. "The candidate who will have the support of the Penrose-Armstrong machine in the present election is a business man of the highest ability in the management of his private affairs. But if he is elected Mayor he will be a child in the hands of the machine. They'll play with him."

"Business men of equal ability and who are independent of machine domination could give Pittsburgh a clean administration. But we are all too busy making money. And why should any man who has built up a character of honesty and acumen sacrifice it to the inevitable blackening with which the enemies of any political candidate, no matter how clean he may be, will besmirch him? No, thank you; no! We'll stick to our steel mills!"

He asserted in so many words that the force of the Mellon banking interests would be thrown against the candidacy of former Public Service Commissioner William A. Magee, whose platform for extensive municipal undertakings is said to give uneasiness to them. He declared that gambling craft and the social evil were rampant in Pittsburgh. And then, he dismissed with a laugh the idea that any public sentiment could be aroused to clean up the city by competent leadership.

"Apathetic? Certainly!" he chuckled. "Even the women who are our social leaders and who once attacked vice conditions are too busy now with Red Cross work to pay any attention to this campaign. Frankly, I can conceive of no circumstance which could arouse the public from its apathy."

He made these observations in the calmest of tones, and if they could not be classed as humor, they do form an ironic comment on Pittsburgh which is not devoid of humor.

Even Mrs. Rinehart is Cynical Precisely the same attitude was taken by Mary Roberts Rinehart, probably known to more people in the United States than any other resident of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Rinehart, a keen student of municipal as well as of national affairs, asserted without reservation that Pittsburgh's citizens are not being given a clean city, either morally or physically. Nor could she express any confidence that the conditions which she denounced would be bettered to any adequate degree, whatever the outcome of the present mayoralty contest. "Only a miracle could awaken the public to force clean government upon the city," said she, "and frankly, I cannot see how such a miracle could happen."

"You think that sounds cynical? Well, I am cynical! Pittsburgh is too old a city, too habituated to wearing its chains without protest, ever to be awakened."

A humorous situation? Possibly so, to the residents of Pittsburgh; but how intensely richer in humor to certain citizens of Philadelphia! And who may those citizens be?

Well, they stand in two groups, looking at each other across the prostrate body of the city in the Allegheny hills. In one group are Boies Penrose, James P. McNeel and their lieutenants; and in the other are William S. Vare, a Governor of Pennsylvania named Brumbaugh and his Attorney General, Francis Shunk Brown.

It has been a good many years since a chap named Nast drew a picture of a stout, middle-aged man with a body of a supine goddess and a snarled viciously while the hosts of those who had looked down on the scene and cried applause. Tweed, whose rule of New York the tiger typified, is gone. Tammany is a lean shadow. But Pennsylvania today are seated about an amphitheatre overlooking an arena in which not one but two tigers are loose. "Who cares which one wins?" chuckle the wits of Pittsburgh.

But if one conquers the other, the victor will make the old tiger of Tammany look by comparison like a tame housecat.

Measured by 1917 standards in Pennsylvania, Tammany was a piker. Tammany owned one city. The tigers of today will be content with not less than two. For with these two the victor will control an empire Commonwealth as its untrammelled hunting ground.

The second article on the Pittsburgh political situation, "A Great City Put Up at Auction; How Much Is Bid for Pittsburgh?" will appear on this page tomorrow.

THE DANGER MONTHS July, August and September are the danger months. During these three months 40 per cent of all the babies born in the United States do not survive the first month. Records prove that more than 40 per cent of babies born each year die before thirty days have passed.

There are 100,000 mothers in the United States who will lose their infants during these three months. Many of these deaths will be due to improper care. There is a pure milk, many to summer heat. More than 75,000 of these babies could be saved to the country if they were given right food and proper care. And the country is going to need these babies as the country has never needed them before.

There is no longer any excuse for parents who allow their ignorance to cause the death of a baby. There is no longer any reason for an infant to die from lack of pure milk.

Of the 300,000 babies under one year of age who died in the United States in 1915 investigation proved that the deaths of 100,000 could have been prevented. There is a

THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT BELONG TO REACTIONARIES

IT IS peculiar that the Constitution, which became the final written covenant of liberty and justice in this country, should be appealed to invariably by the cohorts of reaction whenever public opinion writes into the statute books laws likely to improve social conditions and keep the nation in line with the forward development of modern economic thought and progress. Bring a man up under a system which has yielded him profits and he will fight to the bitter end against any change in that system. Let men grow rich through child labor and there is no argument under the sun which can convince them that child labor is not a good thing. The father who has children working in mills and confiscates their weekly wage is horrified at the impudence of government in endeavoring to prevent such a condition of affairs. There is not a humanitarian law of any importance in American statute books that some interest or other did not wage war against it in the courts on the ground of its unconstitutionality. When the slave autocracy could get little comfort anywhere else, it turned with confidence to the United States Supreme Court and argued out of that tribunal the infamous Dred Scott decision. But times have changed and the view of courts has changed with them. It is not often in these days that the Supreme Court upholds the narrow views of provincial judges or fails to interpret broadly the powers of the Federal Government.

The Keating-Owen child-labor law, which Judge Boyd, of the Western District of North Carolina, has declared unconstitutional, prohibits the employment of any child under fourteen years of age in any factory, mill, workshop or cannery the products of which are to be shipped in interstate commerce, and requires that the working day of children fourteen to fifteen years old shall not be longer than eight hours. Professor Parkinson, of Columbia University, representing the Department of Justice, stated that Congress avowedly had used its power to regulate interstate commerce to terminate deplorable local conditions within several of the individual States. This statement, Judge Boyd averred, left the issue clear and brought forth the question, "Can Congress do by indirect action that which undoubtedly it cannot do directly?" "Congress may regulate trade among the States," he decided, "but not the internal conditions of labor."

We have not Professor Parkinson's view in full before us. His interpretation of the purposes of Congress could be, at best, but an interpretation. A citizen in embryo is part of the vital asset of the nation. The education of that citizen and his upbringing under conditions reasonably conducive to good health are of fundamental concern to the whole nation, no matter of what State the aforesaid person may be a native and an inhabitant. We have passed through that era of hazy conceptions when a community was not sick unless an epidemic raged. We know now that general insanitary conditions, methods of employment, etc., in any one State may be as dangerous as the well-being of other States as cholera or smallpox. In conserving our natural resources we have learned to conserve also our vital resources. The national welfare is superior to any State rights. The decision to that effect was not registered in a law court, but at Appomattox. It is still in force.

In view of the extraordinary powers placed recently in the hands of the Chief Executive, powers which amply amaze the Federal authority, we doubt seriously if the Supreme Court will sustain the narrow and rigid ruling handed down in North Carolina. It is more likely to sweep the whole argument of technicalities to one side and place itself squarely on record once more in favor of a liberal construction of the Constitution. For that is an instrument, as the framers demonstrated, no wonder, which is not a dead letter. It is a living thing, and it is stretching its arms to embrace the future.

Mr. Wilson having decided to march in the parade of drafted men today, Senator Vardaman announces that he'll be there, too. We trust that the exercise will not be so strenuous as to interfere with his future oratory in the Senate.

Mr. Black charged that Governor Brumbaugh wanted to use the State Highway Department to build up a political machine. The Governor retorts by appointing J. Denny O'Neil to take Mr. Black's place. Mr. O'Neil was a good

Moscow will be the capital, but not of a German empire.

Mr. Wilson's reply to the Pope is like good wine—it gets better with age.

One Labor Day is much the same as another, only each year there is a little more prosperity.

Uncle Sam reports a "shortage of small bills." Husbands of bargain-hunters deeply envy him.

Mayor Mitchel, of New York, is also lucky. A judge is the opposition candidate, and he isn't even a Republican judge.

It is a pity the Mayor does not walk more often about the city by night. He might see some things that blind ordinary preservers of the peace.

And yet it was only a year or so ago that the present Mayor of Chicago was being groomed for the presidency! Time is a yardstick no "piker" can fool.

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